

Message Text

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - NATO AND SALZBURG SUMMITS

1. FOUR BEIRUT PAPERS COMMENT ON NATO AND SALZBURG SUMMITS
MAY 31. LEADING INDEPENDENT "AN-NAHAR" SEES SALZBURG SUMMIT
AS LAST CHANCE IN ARAB-AMERICAN RELATIONS. PRO-LIBYAN "AS-SAFIR"
ENUMERATES LATEST EXAMPLES OF AMERICA'S "HOSTILITY" TOWARDS THE
ARABS AND CRITICIZES EGYPT FOR CONTINUING TO IGNORE THIS
"HOSTILITY" AND GOING TO SALZBURG. LEADING PRO-EGYPTIIN "AL-ANWAR"
SEES PRESIDENT FORD'S ADDRESS BEFORE NATO SUMMIT AS FRUITLESS
ATTEMPT TO GAIN MEMBERS' SUPPORT FOR U.S. MIDEAST POLICY AND
STRENGTHEN HIS HAND AT SALZBURG. PRO-IRAQI "BEIRUT" INTERPRETS
SAME ADDRESS BOTH AS ATTEMPT TO GAIN NATO MEMBERS' SUPPORT FOR
U.S. MIDEAST POLICY AND AS THREAT TO OIL-EXPORTING STATES.
END SUMMARY.

2. FU'AD MATAR, EGYPTIAN AFFAIRS EXPERT OF LEADING INDEPENDENT
"AN-NAHAR", WRITES: "SALZBURG SUMMIT BEGINS TOMORROW. WILL IT
BE A SUMMIT OF PEACE, OF WAR, OR OF NO-WAR NO-PEACE? ITS
RESULTS WILL PROVIDE THE ANSWER.... SALZBURG SUMMIT WILL BE EGYPT'S
THIRD

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TEST OF AMERICAN POLICY. FIRST AND SECOND TESTS FAILED,

AND THERE ARE FEARS FOLLOWING STATMENT OF POSITION BY THREE-
FOURTHS OF AMERICA'S SENATORS THAT THIRD TEST WILL FAIL AS WELL.
IF IT DOES, ANY HOPE OF AN 'ARAB AMERICA' OR OF AN AMERICAN
RAPPROCHEMENT WITH THE ARABS WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE...."

3. COLUMNIST BILAL AL-HASAN WRITES IN PRO-LIBYAN "AS-SAFIR":
"SUMMIT MEETING BETWEEN FORD AND SADAT BEGINS TOMORROW....
THIS MEETING IS MORE LIKELY TO LEAD TO WAR THAN TO PEACE...FOR IT
HAS BEEN PRECEDED BY AMERICAN POSITIONS EXTREMELY HOSTILE TO THE
ARABSPN AND THESE POSITIONS HAVE BROUGHT MEETING TO FAILURE BEFORE
IT BEGINS. AMERICAN SENATORS HAVE SENT LETTEH TO PRESIDENT FORD....
AMERICAN SECDEFENSE HAS AGAIN THREATENED OIL STATES AND
SHEIKHS WITH POSSIBLE MILITARY OCCUPATION.... PRESIDENT FORD
HAS PERSONALLY SUMMONED AND PRESSURED EUROPEAN STATES TO
SUPPORT AMERICAN POLICY IN MIDEAST.... IT IS ILLOGICAL THAT
ARAB NEGOTIATORS SHOULD GO TO MEET WITH FORD AS IF THIS AMERICAN
POSITION DID NOT EXIST.... EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS ARE INSISTENTLY
PERSISTING IN THEIR FAILURE TO SEE WHAT IS HAPPENING AROUND THEM
AND RECOGNIZE ITS CLEAR POLITICAL MEANING."

4. COLUMNIST ELIAS BADAWI WRITES IN LEADING PRO-EGYPTIAN
"AL-ANWAR": "AMERICAN PRESIDENT GERALD FORD HAS EMPHASIZED TO
MEMBERS OF NATO THAT HIS COUNTRY IS READY TO DEFEND ANY MEMBER
FACING ARMED ATTACK.... BY SO DOING, HE IS WORKING TO OBTAIN
NATO MEMBERS' SUPPORT FOR AMERICA'S EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE SOLUTION
IN MIDEAST. THESE EFFORTS ARE CLOSELY TIED TO AMERICA'S
INTERESTS... WHICH ARE THEMSELVES CLOSELY TIED TO SITUATION IN
MIDEAST. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT, IF FORD OBTAINS SUCH SUPPORT,
IT WILL STRENGTHEN HIS POSITION AT SALZBURG SUMMIT... AND LATER
WITH PRIME MINISTER OF ISRAEL.... BUT FORD-KISSINGER DUO SEEKS
TO IGNORE SOME ESSENTIAL FACTS, MOST IMPORTANT OF WHICH IS THAT
POSITION OF EUROPEAN COMMUNITY... WAS AND REMAINS VERY DIFFERENT
FROM AMERICA'S POSITION WITH REGARD TO MIDEAST CONFLICT."

5. COLUMNIST 'ADNAN BADR WRITES IN PRO-IRAC: "BEIRUT"; "FORD'S
ADDRESS BEFORE NATO SUMMIT HAD TWO BASIC AIMS: FIRST WAS TO ADDRESS
INDIRECT THREAT TO OIL-EXPORTING STATER.... MAJOR PORTION OF THIS
THREAT WAS DIRECTED TO ARAB STATES. AMERICAN PRESIDENT WANTS TO
MAKE THEM UNDERSTAND, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, THAT U.S. WILL
NOT ACCEPT ANOTHER DEFEAT IN MIDEAST SIMILAR TO TIS DEFEAT
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IN INDOCHINA AND THAT AMERICAN PRESENCE IN THIS REGION IS VITAL
FACTOR IN ECONOMIC STRUCTURE AND MILITARY STRENGTH OF ENTIRE
CAPITALIST WORLD. SECOND AIM WAS TO CALL UPON THE OTHER NATO
STATES TO ACCEPT AND SUPPORT AMERICAN'S AGGRESSIVE POLICY IN
MIDEAST AS 'DEFENSE OF ECONOMIC INTERESTS OF EURO-AMERICAN
CAPITALIST WORLD'."

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